



## 26 OWS NEWSLETTER



### *“Farewell Chief Haines”*



#### ***Proud men and women of the 26th Operational Weather Squadron and friends located throughout the***

**AOR**, I really struggle with the best way to say goodbye, see ya later, hasta la vista...whatever. Well, you get the point. Fact is, there are no easy goodbyes when you care about and will miss those around you. Now, don't get me wrong...I'm not about to get emotional, but I think of years of traveling and oh so many goodbyes. There was the drive to the airport on the way to BMT toting that big ole manila envelope (did you ever wonder what was inside)? What a joy to be on the bus leaving Lackland for Sheppard, then on to the Guard, Active Duty, three overseas tours, many more CONUS assignments. Then there were my TDYs, and the TDYs of my lovely wife, MSgt Lisa Haines...now deployed and ready to help whoop Sadaam's rear in his own sand box. Back to goodbyes; I'd rather ride off into the sunset. I'm not much of a cowboy. So...

Thanks! First and foremost to our God who only through his love and grace are we allowed the opportunity to live in this great and free nation. Too often, I've lived for the earthly things...I'll try to do better Lord. Secondly, I thank my parents. I haven't asked for much of Mom and Dad in life, but whenever I needed love and guidance, they were there for me. Next, I thank my wife. Lisa sacrificed much of her career and life for me. She gave me the most beautiful children. Tabbatha and Kelven, our niece and nephew, John the sensitive, bright-eyed kid, and Lindsey (AKA the monster) is definitely all Lisa. We really need that house with jail cells in the basement.

Hats off to those folks who got me promoted. Believe me, no one makes it on their own and never could a person thank all who've been a positive influence. I could go back to quiet leaders, like TSgt Joe Mahaney from the Iowa Air National Guard, one of the sweetest, most genuine people I've ever met. Joe lost his life in a freak accident...he's gotta be in heaven now. Another mentor, TSgt Tommy Young taught me that even a guy shoveling "doo doo" could exceed appearance standards and exemplify great work ethic. Hard to believe this Airman from the MacDill AFB sewage plant would one day be a Chief... maybe this was a dream. MSgt Mark Harris from Kadena AB taught me the overweight Buck Sergeant didn't actually know everything and gave me the motivation necessary to study and breeze past him from A1C to SSgt. Then there was Major Web Tileston (now Col and Deputy Director of AF Weather), CMSgt John Behnke, SMSgt Rick Suggs,

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# Thanks for 22+ Years of Outstanding Service





John Behnke, SMSgt Rick Suggs, TSgt Ernie Anderson, who took me under their collective wing at my first weather assignment giving me the springboard to excel in a career field a world away from my comfort level. CMSgt Steve Ruch taught me from the textbook of "tough love" at RAF Mildenhall and helped sand off my rough corners. CMSgt (ret) George Coleman also beat me about the head and shoulders on occasion, and Lt Cols Blaine Asato and Tim Lambert and SMSgt Dave Smith were there to pick me up when I stumbled at AWS. In more recent years, I thank my retiring officer; Col John Vrba, Command CMSgt (ret) Bill Schuster, Col (ret) Bobby Wright, MSgt Greg Bond, MSgt (sel) Oliver Fisher, CMSgt (ret) Roger Graffa and the many other Kelly/Lackland guys that put the Chief's feathers in my cap.

Finally, men and women of the 26th Operational Weather Squadron: I thank you from the depth of my soul. We've been through much in our 18 months together. We lost a dear friend in 21 year-old Aaron Hedstrom. He'll never be replaced, yet we gained friends in the process as Aaron's widow Jamie and father Danial have grown closer to our OWS family through the tragedy. At times it almost appeared we were going to lose young Takeyla McNair. She struggled through Lupus and has been medically retired. Yes, we've had a host of other personal tragedies, but we've also had some immense successes.

The 26 OWS stood up operations and took on the monumental task of reaching final operational capability months ahead of schedule. The folks who were here prior to Jan, 2002 are the pack mules of this joint. We owe so much to these GS Civilians and Contractors, Officers, NCOs, and Airmen as they laid the groundwork for our past and future success. Among the numerous individual awards, the 26 OWS was also identified as an 8 AF nominee for the Verne Orr Award for essentially doing the most with the least. A 200 person squadron with over 80% of the folks on their first weather assignment, responsible for the resource protection of \$60B in assets across 640K square miles...Any questions? You guys...excuse my French, kick bootee'.

Now you ask, "Chief, how can I be successful in the AF?" To which I reply, "Success is not measured by the number of stripes on your chevrons, but if I could sum up in one word what it takes to be a success in the AF and probably in any career, the word is DISCIPLINE!" The AF Core Values concept is relatively new. Oh, we've always had core values...they've just been

somewhat undefined, but proper discipline is the key to any airman's success. Discipline gets you out of bed in time to report for duty. Discipline implores you to shine the boots, iron the uniform, be respectful, treat others as they deserve to be treated, pushes you to meet your suspenses, and the list goes on. Look at our core values: 1) Integrity First - Have the discipline to tell the truth, to stand by your decisions, and follow through for your troops, peers, superiors in all endeavors. If a person does not tell the truth, they are undisciplined and unworthy of serving in this AF. 2) Service Before Self - If you're not properly disciplined it would be all too easy to consider your personal needs first. Some folks, myself included, have "significant emotional events" that cause us to sole search resulting in a reprioritization of life's goals. Until the day you take this uniform off, remember that the AF needs come first! 3) Excellence in all we do - Always doing your best is discipline-driven. In weather, short of a successful go/ no go forecast, our world is imperfect. Rarely are we 100% correct. However, the huge amount of effort necessary for supporting our customers is paramount to their mission accomplishment. Without a proper measure of discipline, excellence suffers. So...DISCIPLINE yourself and your decisions and you'll go far! The AF is not for everyone. For those fine disciplined troops who serve their initial enlistment and decide to move on, I say, "Thanks for your service in defense of your country." For those who'll make the AF a career, continue to AIM HIGH!

Now, where does an old decrepit retired CMSgt go from here? Truth be known, my family needs me more than the AF does today (I've had to reprioritize...see above). I can't afford the time necessary to give you fine troops of the 26 OWS all you need, so I have to move on. Chances are, I'll be teaching in the fall at a local high school or middle school. Some folks have asked what I'd be teaching to which I reply, "Duh...I'll be teaching kids!" How ya'll think I'll do? A fellow Chief asked, "What about the money?" I looked at the comparable pay scales...looks like Lisa may have to watch her spending when she gets back from the desert...or I'll have to buy some junkers like those the First Sergeant owns! Seriously, I will miss you all! You're the best!

I hope the Lord's allowed me to make a positive impact on a few of your lives. You've definitely done that for me! God bless all of you.

Chief Haines

## **26 OWS Regional Weather Conference**

**By: 1Lt Michele LoBianco**

On January 29-31, the 26th Operational Weather Squadron hosted the first-ever Regional Weather Conference. This conference was designed to bring all south central regional weather units together to discuss region-specific weather issues. The conference also focused on OWS-CWT relationships. This focus allowed for a constructive forum in which both the CWTs and the OWS were able to openly discuss topics that related to most of the CWTs.

The Regional Weather Conference provided the OWS with a great deal of valuable customer feedback. Particular areas discussed were Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)/TAF amendments and the TAF development process, web page products, Resource Protection products and TAF and Resource Protection Metrics. SMSgt Flieg, who gave several briefs, said, "I went through the web TAF worksheet and received mostly favorable feedback on it."

CWTs agreed that the web TAF worksheet is a great tool for communicating the forecast process from the OWS forecaster to the CWT. Resource Protection metrics for 2002 indicated that the 26 OWS was above ACC standard in Capability (percent issued with positive lead-time) and QPM (percent issued within desired lead-time), but did not meet the False Alarm Rate standard.

We are working to improve our high false alarm rate by increasing targeted weather forecast seminars. These monthly seminars are tailored to the individual's experience level and focus on seasonal weather forecast challenges. The briefing on TAF metrics indicated that we were above the Air Force Weather average in all but 2 of 12 verification points from September through December of 2002.

After we completed our briefings, each individual CWT made a presentation. The CWTs talked about their mission, customers and innovations/challenges. This open forum allowed for the understanding between the CWT/OWS, as well as for other CWTs to network and utilize each other's tools and resources. This was a vital component in ensuring a positive relationship amongst the region and OWS.

Overall, this conference was a great success. We have listened to our customers and gotten crucial feedback. Since the conference, we have been working hard to address the issues raised in the conference. As we continue to provide support, it is important to listen to our customers. Their ideas may make your job and theirs more efficient and easier. We are in the customer service business and the customer is key! We look to continuing this conference on an annual basis. I encourage you to attend next year's conference and continue to support our CWTs. They definitely appreciate your hard work.

## **My American View**

**by Capt John Sandifer, Vance Weather Flight Commander**

I'm not a talented writer, but I trust you'll get the spirit of the message from my simplistic view on life. I'm not a new kid or an old head, but I've been around the block about 16 years in the Air Force and I've learned a few things along the way. As I like to say, I didn't make it all the way through 3rd grade for nothin'! I'd like to share my thoughts with you on a few current events, so if you don't get a chuckle or have a lump in your throat by the time you finish reading this, then there's something wrong with your heart. Sometimes common sense goes out the window in order to satisfy the expedencies of the moment or what just happens to be in fashion at the time. So folks, let's step back a moment and try to separate the forest from the trees.

First, I hear a lot of talk about how our diversity as people gives us strength as a nation. But there are a lot of people who spend all their time only pointing out our differences. I guess I'm not real smart here because I'm not sure if I understand this. After all, differences don't build strength, unity does. So instead of pointing out what makes us different, such as our color, ethnicity, or religious beliefs, I'm more for focusing on our solidarity as a nation and how we are united in a common purpose. That purpose being not to establish American government around the world, but to insure that people have the basic human rights of life, liberty,

*(Continued on page 7)*

## What 's New At the Hub?

### Fused Hazard Charts Are Here!



#### *Praise from the top!*

"Gen Hornburg,

Here's a "good news" story that marks another step in integrating information 'in' warfare

Last November, 8 AF's Operational Weather Squadron (the 26 OWS) was given the task of "fusing" aviation hazards (icing, turbulence, etc) products from all four CONUS hubs. From a standing start in 3 months ago they solved a problem that had lingered for 3+ years! The first "fused" CONUS-wide weather charts were officially transmitted for operational use on Monday 17 Feb. ...This allows aircrews to look at a single chart for all weather in the CONUS (important for XC and NORAD missions) instead of several, and it also frees up some manpower billets to support CEN-TAF-Rear and OEF. The next step is to add Alaska and Canada to the chart, making a complete Northern Hemisphere chart.

Lots more to do as we continue to integrate the full range of IO, but we are making progress.

Very respectfully,

Bruce"

"Bruce:

*Thanks for filling me in. Great work. HH"*

*Email excerpt from Lt. Gen Carlson, 8AF to General Hornburg, Commander ACC and the Generals reply.*

From Lt Col Condray

"By working as a team with the other CONUS hubs and the 11 OWS in Alaska, we were able to solve in three months a problem that has frustrated CWTs and other operational customers for over three years. It also paves the way for setting up fused Northern Hemisphere products that may be required to support NORTHCOM air defense and other operations. This terrific effort took a lot of heavy lifting by our Combat Weather (graphics) and Systems Flights as well as the graphics & systems sections of the other involved hubs. The resulting products have received great reviews, including a well earned "Great Job" from Gen Hornburg (COMACC) when Lt Gen Carlson (8 AF/CC) briefed him on it!"

#### ***News From the CWF***

With so many changes already under its belt, and many more on the way, it looks like there's no rest in sight for the CWF. Analyzing FITL charts is nothing compared to just getting settled in! There have been three changes of supervisors so far; with two more on the way as TSgt Yancey has been deployed to Shaw and 1LT Wilson will be rotating onto the Operations floor. Scheduling has been a challenge since the beginning, and remains so as manning and hours must be balanced against mission requirements that could change at any minute. Leads scripts, used to create products, are revised and updated whenever needed to meet dynamic mission requirements. Now, with the New Year under way, The CWF is in the process of preparing to go operational with the CONUS Stitching Products in late February. In keeping up with all of these changes and challenges, the CWF has proved itself versatile and adaptable by not only meeting and exceeding standards, but continuously seeking to improve and refine the products they provide as well.

*By A1C Rebecca Boone/CWF*

**System Bytes** - OPSII (our computer system) will be migrating from 'GIF' imagery to 'PNG' imagery by mid-summer and will no longer support production of 'GIF' products. 'PNG' (file extension .png) imagery is very good for all types of images from photographs (.jpg) to line art (.gif) and tends to be a bit smaller in size (5-10 kb per image). If you have any systems that will not support display of PNG files or just have questions, please let us know via our web feedback page (<https://ows.barksdale.af.mil/feedback/>).

## What 's New cont

### Changes to Leads Products implemented after CWT Conference

#### Background maps:

Slightly darkened to allow better contrast of lighter colors and still maintain analyst functionality for the OPS floor.

#### Model Output:

Wind plot density has been decreased.

Decreased nearly all line thickness to 1.

Maintained slightly thicker (thickness 2) for parameters such as the 576mb GPH, 540 Thkns, and 0deg temperatures.

Altered the jet level wind speed image. Current display shows isotachs beginning at 50 knots at 20knot intervals. The color image appears for wind speeds  $\geq 100$  knots and is graduated every 10knots (this will probably have to be adjusted for warmer seasons).

Altered the RH images at all levels. Current display shows RH isopleth at 50%, intervals of 10%. The image begins at 70% and is graduated at 10%.

All divergence and vertical velocity contours have been decreased in density (number of lines) to avoid clutter.

*NOTE: As of this date only the ETA and MM5 have been altered, all other model data will be adjusted similarly unless otherwise directed.*

#### LAWC:

Nearly all isopleths have been reduced in thickness (from 2s and 3s to 1).

The web display shows fewer stations and MSLP isopleths (2mb down to 4mb)

#### UPPER AIR:

Nearly all isopleths have been reduced in thickness.

#### FLIGHT LEVEL WINDS:

Reduced all line thickness to 1.

Reduced the Temp Dev contour interval from 10 to 20.

#### SATELLITE:

Removed color topography from the radar/satellite/topography image at the web page entrance.

*Submitted by Mr. Mike King, 26 OWS/SC*

### ***Congratulations to our newest Arrivals:***

***William Gordon Fowler, born Dec 31 to Nicole and 2Lt. Jonathan Wilson***

***Victoria Rose, born Jan 31 to A1C Misty and Brandon Watkins***

***Enzo Laurence, born 27 Feb to Portia and 2Lt John Hurley***





## Web Based TAF Worksheets

The 26th OWS implemented web-based Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) worksheets on 24 January. Our main goals are to improve our forecast process and make our forecast reasoning available to Combat Weather Team (CWT) forecasters.

26 OWS forecasters complete the worksheets on our local intranet and save/post them onto our web page. Combat Weather Team forecasters can access their installation's password protected TAF worksheet on the 26 OWS web page under "Meteorologist," "Text Products" under the "Forecasts" menu, or under this web page link:

[https://ows.barksdale.af.mil/meteorologist/text/index.cfm?UNIT\\_ID=&bandwidth=&aor=1&sc=205321&CFID=875624&CFTOKEN=98871873](https://ows.barksdale.af.mil/meteorologist/text/index.cfm?UNIT_ID=&bandwidth=&aor=1&sc=205321&CFID=875624&CFTOKEN=98871873). Worksheets are normally available 30 minutes prior to TAF file time.

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and justice. It's the American way...

Some of you may be dismayed at the anti-war protest going on across our nation...don't be. You should be proud. People are exercising their right of freedom of assembly, a right guaranteed us through the blood and tears of many generations of American fighting men and women. What would happen if some North Koreans tried to speak their mind. They'd end up with a bad case of death three ways ...quick, fast, and in a hurry. There always have been and always will be bad guys...its human nature. Take Iraq for example, there's nothing new under the sun. That guy's just a modern day Hitler, another bad dude who wants more than his fair share and is willing to stop at nothing to get it. I'm grateful that our country is in a position to help others. The Bible say's woe if both you and your brother are down, for if you are both down, who will reach down and help you up? The way I see it, America is up and for good reason...to reach down and help our brother, to be a beacon of hope in a dark world. So when bullies rise up, and they will, to feast upon innocent people, you can bet we're going to smack them back to the stone-age. Are you down with this? It's the American way...

And here's another thing. America is a nation without thanks. Now, I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed, but it puzzles me how we're so misunderstood as a nation. Everywhere you turn today, you hear about how we're always getting involved in other people's business. America bashing seems to be in vogue right now. "Hey, look at those arrogant Americans, dropping food and clothing to the hungry and naked," and "look at America rallying the war cry against Saddam Hussein, who do they think they are?" I mean, after all, Saddam ain't such a bad guy--he's only tortured and murdered thousands of his own people with bullets, bombs, and biological weapons. OK, reality check. So, what kind of people are we. Well, I believe this is the greatest and freest nation in the history of mankind. If all the borders of all countries were opened tomorrow, what country

would be most flooded by immigrants from other nations? America. What country has the greatest commerce, scientific knowledge, medical and industrial technology in the world? America. American designed and built airplanes move more cargo and people around the world than any other nation. American capital and generosity feeds the hungry and clothes the naked of the world far more than any other nation. What nation gives it son's and daughters in battle so that peoples of unknown nations and tongues, will be free to choose their own destiny. America. History shows us time and again as a nation who went to the aid of a world in trouble during WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, and many other conflicts. We weren't always right in all our actions, but I guarantee you our hearts were always in the right place. And finally, who decided they had had enough that fateful 911 day, took that airliner back from those terrorists, and crashed it into an open field? Let's roll, America. That's what kind of people we are; I'm proud and you should be too. It's the American way...

So, back to today. What are we doing and what does the future hold for us? Let me turn back the pages of history and maybe I can shed some light on that. In a radio address in WW II, President Roosevelt shared with the nation his prayer for the success of D-Day. Take heart because it still applies today. "Almighty God: our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set on a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity....and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph... Hmmm, there are those words again, "to set free a suffering humanity", that sure seems to be a re-occurring theme in the American way...

God Bless America!

## *How to Study your CDCs*

*Submitted by TSgt Luis Vazquez*

*26 OWS/UTM*

When I was asked to write an article about CDCs, I thought what should I write about? Should I write about the 30-day per volume time limit or the consequences for failing your End of Course (EOC) twice? Everybody has heard about that. Let's talk about what can help you pass your CDCs instead of what happens if you don't.

The good thing about CDCs is that it is flexible—you can choose where and when to study. We all know how dry the material is in the CDCs. Could you imagine if they were taught in a class? You should have a study routine. Develop a routine and stick to it, even if it is just one hour a day. One hour a day for 30 days is more than enough time to finish a volume of CDCs. Here are a couple of hints that should help you.

Plan your time. Set aside a specific time and how long you want to study for. Build a routine. Like working out.

Arrange good study conditions. Choose a quiet, well-lit place, free from noise and distractions. Make sure it is comfortable and well lighted.

Concentrate on what you are learning. Try to remove distractions.

Underline or highlight important ideas.  
Write down possible test questions.

Many people study UREs (Unit Review Exercises) and think this is enough to pass their EOC (End of Course). This is very misleading. After completing all UREs and Self Test Questions go back and review everything, including highlighted items. If you can, go back and read your CDCs again. An-

other way is to create and use flashcards. The more familiar you become with something the more you can comprehend it. Flashcards provide repeated exposure to key material and are a proven technique for many. Ask your supervisor and others for other study techniques that work for them.

The night before the EOC ensure you get a good night rest. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test. Don't rush through your EOC (you have three hours to complete it). Read everything carefully. Beware of questions that seem familiar (from your UREs) but have been written differently. The meaning of a question can be changed by one or two words. If you come to a question that you are unsure of, move on to the next one.

The purpose of CDCs is for the individual to learn knowledge relevant to your duty/career field. The EOC is the formal tool to assess your understanding/mastery of the material. With proper, focused preparation, monitored by supervisors, the end result should be a passing score—an EOC grade above a 64. Though a score of 65 is "passing", it doesn't reflect an individual has mastered key career field knowledge; but it does allow you to progress. You get out of it what you put in. Ultimately the end result depends on you, the individual, actively learning the material and passing the test.





# Applause! Applause!

## 26OWS Award Winners

A1C Daniel Mike was the 8AF nominee for 2 BW Airmen of the Year, Barksdale AFB

### 608th Air Operations Group Annual Awards 2002

Airman - A1C Daniel Mike  
NCO - TSgt Phuoc Phan  
SNCO - SMSgt Steven Yelenic  
CGO - 1Lt Jay Anderton

### 26OWS Annual Awards 2002

Airman - SrA Daniel Mike  
NCO - TSgt Phuoc Phan  
SNCO - SMSgt Steven Yelenic  
CGO - 1Lt Jay Anderton  
FGO - Maj Eric Grelson  
Civ - Mr. Harry Druckenmiller

### 8th Air Force Quarterly Award Winners Oct-Dec 02

SNCO - MSgt William M. Loy

### 608th AOG Quarterly Award Winners Oct-Dec 02

Airman - A1C Daniel Mike - OWS  
SNCO - MSgt William Loy - OWS  
CGO - 1Lt Michele LoBianco - OWS  
FGO - Maj Eric Grelson - OWS

## **GREAT JOB!**

*Congratulations to all our airmen who have passed their End Of Course exams and to those who have received their 5 level..*

*Want to recognize outstanding individuals in your unit? Got an article to share? Send pictures and information to:*

[leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil](mailto:leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil)



*Congratulations to  
Ms Clarissa Emrick for her selection  
as the ACC Arthur S. Flemming  
Award Winner  
(Applied Science Category)*

### 26OWS Quarterly Award Winners Oct-Dec 02

Airman - SrA(s) Daniel Mike  
NCO - SSgt John Rosario  
SNCO - MSgt William Loy  
CGO - 1Lt Michele Lo Bianco  
Civ - Mr. Derek Quinn

### 8AF Airmen of the Month

A1C Michael Ragsdale, Dec 02  
A1C Desiree herring, Feb 03

### 26OWS Monthly Award Winners

A1C Brian Simpson, Dec 02  
A1C Ian Patterson, Jan 03  
A1C Daniel Whitton, Feb 03  
A1C Jason Conner, Mar 03



*Congratulations COL (sel) Patrick Condray  
and  
LtCol (sel) Robert Fleishauer on your promotions!*



Congratulations to the following for their selection as SrA Below-the-Zone (BTZ): SrA (sel) Rebecca J. Boone, CWF; SrA (sel) Monica Santos, CWF; SrA (sel) Jaerynne H. Sixon, Blue Flight, A-Team and SrA (sel) Joshua M. Smith, CWF



## *Road Trip to Ft. Polk*

*By 1Lt Michele LoBianco*

On the 2-3 of December, eleven 26 OWS members including myself visited Fort Polk. TSgt Maddox who is the Operations Superintendent for Det 1, Combat Weather Ops at Fort Polk, was our POC. The trip was arranged so that our forecasters could get an up close look at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) mission and the significant role Air Force Weather contributes to it.



For most of the airmen, this was their first trip to visit a CWT/Det. This first hand look at Air Force weather in an Army support role was eye-opening. Some of the activities offered were watching the parachute show at the Geronimo Drop Zone, ATV/Humvee rides, using MILES gear and taking a tour of the grounds in a UH-1. On top of all this, the airmen were given a chance to see the variety of opportunities offered in Air Force weather. When it was time to play a simulated war game, capture the flag, everyone was enthused. JRTC has simulated towns and you are acting as though you are infiltrating an enemy town. This experience was nerve shaking. This was especially true when you do not see anyone in your sight but here the alarm beeping on your MILES gear because you were just shot and killed. Then you realize that you are not as good as you might have thought and that every step/decision out in the field can

mean life or death. It builds trust and teamwork.

The UH-1 ride allowed us to see how terrain greatly affected the mission and the forecast. This critical piece of information was vital to the pilots we met. By the end of the day everyone was high adrenaline but the day was not nearly over yet. TSgt Maddox gave a pyrotechnic show. We had the opportunity to fire off flares and smoke bombs. These items are highly dangerous and used during the JRTC rotation. Safety was a high priority at all times, and amidst all of the fun, we were humbled when we heard how many people were hurt or killed during a rotation. Safety first!

JRTC simulates a war situation and it is the largest of its kind in the Army. This is where the Army comes to train to fight. And the unfortunate side to this is that people do get killed. As warriors in today's military, we must never forget that while we are here at home, others are fighting in our place, for our way of life and literally their own. This trip comes at time of increased turmoil where no one is exempt from going to war. And although on a small scale, war was brought to the 11 members who visited Fort Polk, we had left as members of the 26 OWS and returned, as we should, as members of one great military force.





## Sports Shorts



### A-Team Takes the Commander's Cup

*From Top L - R: A1C Richard Villarreal, SSgt Kevin Church, MSgt Dan Johnson, A1C Jeremy Wetherington, SSgt Dave Soley, SSgt Steven Strickland; Bottom Row L-R: A1C Burrell Barnes, A1C Ebony Walker, 2Lt David Bieger, A1C Grant*

### The UAC Corner

Congratulations are in order for D-team! They are the winner of the first CC/Cup! A second congratulation goes to SrA Lucas who earned the most CC/Cup points for her team and Sq! But don't worry; you can still participate in this quarter's CC/Cup.

Have you seen what your UAC has done lately? There are many ongoing events in the Squadron right now. Intramural Volleyball, Bowling, Soccer and paintball with some great events like the Combat Dining-In, Hail/Farewells, and Chili Cook off on its way! We have ordered Sq coins (available soon) and are in the process of ordering T-shirts and patches. On top of that we have some retirement ceremonies approaching. As you can see the UAC is keeping busy.

I encourage everyone to come to the next UAC meeting. It will be held on 2 Apr 03 at 0900 in the shift change area. During this meeting we will be announcing the new UAC officers. The new officers will assume the role in the beginning of April.

SSgt Dave Soley shows off the game pin that he received for a perfect score of 300.



It is hard to believe that so much time has gone by and to think of all that we have and will accomplish has made me proud to serve you as the UAC President.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above mentioned events or purchasing some of the Sq items we have/will purchase, talk to your team representative. Your team representatives have done an outstanding job and are there to work for you! Keep watch of the UAC web page, as it will be changing in the near future.

Thanks and see you at the next event!

Lt Michele LoBianco

## **The Panofsky Index and Low Level Turbulence**

The Panofsky turbulence product available on the 26 OWS web page is an objective turbulence forecast for the Surface to 4000 ft AGL layer. The chart is NOT specific to Cat II aircraft.

AFWA/DNX tested the PI in 2001-2002 using over 3000 aircraft of all types at altitudes at and below FL080 and FL040 with excellent results. The test used all available reports from the Aviation Digital Data Service. This covered the full variety of aircraft types, usually during climb and descent, not just those aircraft operating exclusively at low levels. The criteria values used at 26 OWS to distinguish Light, Moderate, and Severe turbulence are by AFWA/DNX recommendation, and apply to ALL aircraft types in general.

The Panofsky Index (PI) measures vertical shear against wind speed. The higher the shear and wind speeds over a vertical distance, the higher the PI. **The application is based on the boundary layer conditions, not the terrain.** The short-hand formula for PI is:

$$PI = (\text{windspeed})^2 * (1.0 - (RI / 10))$$

where RI is the Richardson Index, a vertical shear parameter.

You can see the Panofsky turbulence chart on the 26 OWS web site by clicking on: Quick Model Data, Turbulence, Panofsky. More information on the PI and how well it verified is at: <http://ams.confex.com/ams/13ac10av/10ARAM/abstracts/40278.htm> (.PDF file)

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Charles J. Lee

Senior Training Administrator, 26th OWS/WXT

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The application also allows for CWT forecasters to make inputs as well. There are two text boxes at the bottom of the worksheet. One is for CWT forecaster comments and the other for logging significant events at the base (night flying, special outdoor activities, etc.). After entries are submitted, they get databased and 26 OWS forecasters may view them.

The TAF worksheet greatly enhances OWS-CWT forecast discussions by making available OWS forecaster thoughts and reasoning. This gives the CWT forecaster a more complete picture of what our forecasters are thinking.

There are still a few items on the application that we are working to correct and improve. Many of these items are based on customer feedback. We will continuously update the worksheet to better our forecast process.

Submitted by SMSgt Pat Flieg,

## ***Global Forecast System (GFS)***

The AVN and MRF forecast models are being phased out and replaced by one model, called the GFS (Global Forecast System). We started to see the data populating our web page on the 17th of Dec. According to NCEP, the GFS has improved resolution (horizontal and vertical) and uses more metsat and surface pressure data for initialization. NCEP believes that the GFS shows better forecasts for precipitation, clouds and icing. The model tends to overforecast moderate-heavy precipitation events. The GFS is a lot like the AVN/MRF of today, but has been "souped-up" in hopes of improved performance.

***Weather Lore and other thoughts...***

***Wood County TC Flatlanders - If flocks of birds gather on a telephone wire, it will rain.***

***Paulding County Flatrock Flatlanders - We're too young for this - we don't know how the sayings go. We just look at the radar.***